

SITUATION REPORT NO. 30
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: APRIL 25, 1997 TIME: 12:00 P.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: A University of North Dakota (UND) college student received minor injuries after he fell asleep at the wheel of his vehicle. The student, who was returning home, said he became tired during sandbagging efforts in Grand Forks. To date, seven people have died as a result of problems created by the winter storm and flooding.
3. DAMAGES: The Red River at Pembina has risen to 54.8 feet on April 25, surpassing its flood-of-record level of 53.8 feet. The river level increased 0.4 feet during the past 24 hours. The river is expected to crest at 58 feet by April 27-28. The National Weather Service reports that spring snowmelt and the Pembina River, which also flows by the city of Pembina, are contributing to Red River rises. A dike had broken in south Pembina on April 24, affecting four permanent homes and 16 mobile homes.

Upstream at Drayton, the Red River appears to be holding steady at 45.55 feet. Predictions have called for the river to crest at 48 to 49 feet, but the N.D. State Water Commission reports that water is spreading overland, which is attenuating the peak. The river, however, has surpassed its 43.7-foot flood-of-record level.

Flood waters have receded in the southwest section of Grand Forks as the level of the Red River continues to drop. The river level at Grand Forks had dropped to 52.62 feet on April 25, a decrease of -0.19 feet during the past 24 hours. The State Water Commission reports that the river crested at 54.2 feet on April 22. Upstream in Fargo, the Red River was at 36.32 feet, a -0.58-foot change during the past 24 hours. The river surpassed its previous flood-of-record level of 37.3 feet when it crested on April 18 at 39.64 feet. The Red River at Wahpeton was at 16.6 feet on April 25, a one-foot drop during the past 24 hours. The river had crested on April 4 at 19.2 feet, above its previous flood-of-record level of 17.95 feet.

The Weather Service has updated its forecast for Devils Lake to crest in July at 1,443.5 feet to 1,444 feet, 3 ½ feet over original predictions. The update is based on U.S. Geological Survey reports that coulees that flow into the Devils Lake Basin are at record levels. As an example, the Mauvais Coulee averages 151 cubic feet per second (cfs) but was at 2,560 cfs

on April 24. Hydrologists estimate that 500,000 acre feet will flow into the lake.

Grand Forks residents who were allowed to return home for four hours on April 24 reported 20 burglaries had occurred after they were evacuated from their homes.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Teleregistration Center has been receiving an average of 4,000 calls a day for North Dakotans applying for Individual Assistance. To date, 18,004 applications have been taken. Of those applications, 1,562 have received a total of \$1,619,179 in disaster housing assistance for rental assistance or minimal housing repair. A total of 7,128 applications have been received for the Individual and Family Grant Program. To date, seven applications have been awarded for a total of \$7,891.

The N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) reports that 52 portions of state and federal highways are under water in eastern North Dakota. N.D. DOT staff are considering revisions to plans to elevate Devils Lake roads based on the updated Devils Lake forecast.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from the first report.

STATE: No change from the first report.

FEDERAL: No change from the first and second reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Commissioner Harold Hinson, commander for the Salvation Army's central territory, Lt. Col. Donald Arnold, Division Commander, and Maj. David Dahlberg, National Disaster Relief coordinator, were taken by the N.D. National Guard to flooded areas in Grand Forks. The agency reports that nearly 500 volunteers, officers and employees are involved with "Operation We Care" relief and recovery efforts in eastern North Dakota. These efforts have included supervision and feeding at a Grand Forks Air Force Base shelter, mobile feeding, a supply-receiving distribution facility in Fargo and initial cleanup operations in Wahpeton. To date, more than 200,000 flood victims and emergency workers have received some form of Salvation Army assistance.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: As southwest Grand Forks residents were allowed to see their homes for the first time since evacuating, officials worked to restore city services on April 24. City officials have established a temporary city hall at the University of North Dakota's (UND) Housing Office. The Police Department has resumed regular street patrol of the areas where waters have receded. The City Attorney is developing plans for a flood relief foundation that will accept cash donations. As flood waters recede, city officials may expand the areas where residents will be permitted to return.

Governor Schafer has announced that all state employees whose offices are affected by the current flood disaster will continue to be paid for their regularly scheduled hours. State employees, including University System employees, are asked to contact their agency headquarters as soon as possible to provide emergency contact information. Each agency's headquarters office will coordinate return-to-work plans and schedules with local area

managers on a location-by-location basis.

The State Water Commission reports that an emergency dike constructed on South Washington Street in Grand Forks succeeded in preventing additional inundation of the southwest section of the city. The dike, constructed in flood waters within 30 hours, is three-quarters of a mile long.

Air crews from the North Dakota Civil Air Patrol, N.D. Highway Patrol and N.D. Game and Fish Department are flying 24-hour surveillance flights over the eastern portion of Grand Forks County as security precaution.

The FEMA Broadcasting Recovery Services will broadcast a 15-minute Grand Forks flood update every day at 12:30 p.m. on Prairie Public Radio stations throughout the state.

In response to flooding north of Grand Forks, the N.D. National Guard has stationed two helicopters at Grand Forks Air Force Base and three at the Cavalier airport. Other flood fight efforts underway include providing pumps and transporting sandbags. In addition, removal of livestock that died during the April 4-6 blizzard continues in Dunn, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, Logan, McHenry, McIntosh, and Oliver Counties. The National Guard has 70 missions in progress, 178 completed, and four pending. Members on duty April 23 totaled 894 for a cumulative total of 2,448 members.

Job Service North Dakota has opened a temporary office in Larimore at the Senior Center to help evacuated Grand Forks residents. Four Job Service employees will take job insurance and Disaster Unemployment Assistance claims.

The State Health Officer was scheduled to meet with officials from United Hospital and the Grand Forks Air Force Base to discussion transition of medical care for evacuees. An emergency coordinator from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has been assigned to the N.D. Department of Health to act as liaison with federal officials.

The N.D. Department of Human Services (DHS) has submitted to HHS a plan to assist families with children affected by the flood. A five-member team from HHS' Denver Office will assist the state Human Service economic assistance program staff in planning for family and program needs as a result of the flood.

North Central Human Service Center continues to provide psychiatric services to Grand Forks area clients who have evacuated to Minot. The Northwest Human Service Center staff has formed emergency response teams of mental health professionals who are coordinating with the State Hospital in Jamestown to find housing for severely mentally ill flood evacuees who have been sheltered at the hospital.

Disaster Recovery Centers, staffed by FEMA and Department of Human Services personnel, will open on April 26 in Wahpeton and on April 28 in Fargo. The centers will provide information about assistance programs available to residents and business owners suffering disaster-related damages.

Sixteen state and 12 federal inspectors on April 24 began writing Damage Survey Reports (DSRs) for Public Assistance categories A and B, debris removal and emergency protective

measures. In addition, two state and two federal inspectors are working with rural electric cooperatives, assessing the damages they sustained during the April 4-6 blizzard. The inspectors, who are based in satellite offices in Minot and Dickinson, will first work in 22 western North Dakota counties and then, as flood waters subside, move eastward.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: North Dakota residents with disaster-related damages can apply for individual assistance programs by contacting the National Teleregistration Center (NTC) at (800) 462-9029. The N.D. Department of Agriculture operates an Agriculture Disaster Response Center for farmers coping with damages and losses caused by the disaster. The toll-free number is (888) 337-8632. Job Service North Dakota has received approval for Disaster Unemployment Assistance. Applicants are asked to call their local Job Service office or call (800) 472-2222.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the N.D. Division of Emergency Management, and volunteer relief agencies have established a donations coordination hotline, (800) 809-1450. Other volunteer donation hotlines are: American Red Cross, (800) FLOODND; the Salvation Army, (800) SALARMY; Seventh Day Adventists, (800) 381-7171; and United Methodist Council on Relief (UMCOR), (800) 814-8765.

The Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports for the spring flood, Devils Lake flood and winter storm are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>". The N.D. State Water Commission posts flood-related information on its Internet home page. The address is "<http://water.swc.state.nd.us>". The N.D. Department of Agriculture also posts flood-related information on its home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/agr>". The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a "Water Control Home Page" at "<http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>". The U.S. Geological Survey's Internet home page address is: "<http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>".

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